

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A connector (2), comprising:

a housing (6) for receiving at least one terminal fitting (11);

a retainer (12) engageable with the housing (6) at a first position where the retainer (12) is lightly assembled with the housing (6) to permit the insertion and withdrawal of the terminal fitting (11) and at a second position where the retainer (12) is deeply assembled with the housing (6) to lock the terminal fitting (11) in the housing (6);

at least one housing rib (7B) projecting from an outer surface (25) of the housing (6) for insertion into an accommodating groove (10) in a receptacle (3) of a mating housing (4); and

at least one retainer rib (27) formed on the retainer (12) and substantially aligned with the housing rib (7B) along a connecting direction (CD) of the two housings (6, 4), the retainer rib (27) having a projecting end projecting out beyond the housing rib (7B) when the retainer (12) is at the first position while projecting no farther than the housing rib when the retainer (12) is at the second position.

2. The connector (2) of claim 1, wherein the projecting end of the retainer rib (27) is substantially flush with the housing rib (7B) when the retainer (12) is at the second position.

3. The connector (2) of claim 1, wherein the housing (6) comprises at least one auxiliary housing rib (7A) on an outer surface (24) thereof different from an outer surface (25) through which the retainer (12) is mounted.

4. The connector (2) of claim 3, wherein the housing rib (7B) and the auxiliary housing rib (7A) have front ends substantially aligned along the connecting direction (CD).

5. The connector (2) of claim 1, wherein the housing rib (7B; 7A) is dimensioned to prevent the housing (6) from being fit into the receptacle (3) of the mating housing (4) while forcibly deforming the receptacle (3).

6. A connector assembly comprising the connector (2) of claim 1 and a mating connector (1) to be connected therewith.

7. A connector, comprising:

a housing (130) with at least one cavity (131), at least one lock (133) in the cavity (131) and being resiliently deformable along a deforming direction (DD);

a terminal fitting (110) insertable into and withdrawable from the cavity (131) along inserting and withdrawing directions (IWD) and configured to be locked by the lock (133), the terminal fitting (110) having a pushable projection (121) projecting towards the lock (133);

a jig insertion space (148) defined between the terminal fitting (110) and the lock (133) for receiving a disengaging portion (162) of a jig (160) insertable substantially along the inserting and withdrawing directions (IWD), a dimension of the jig insertion space (148) along the deforming direction (DD) being smaller than a dimension of the disengaging portion (162) along the deforming direction (DD), and a difference between said dimension of the jig insertion space (148) and said dimension of the disengaging portion (162) being at least equal to a displacement of the lock (133) needed to cancel a locked state of the terminal fitting (110).

8. The connector of claim 7, wherein the lock (133) has an introduction guiding slanted surface (149) with an inclination for gradually decreasing the dimension of the jig insertion space (148) substantially along the deforming direction (DD) of the lock (133).

9. The connector of claim 7, wherein the pushable projection (121) is widened so that a projecting distance thereof is increased gradually, and a guiding slanted surface (121a) is formed on an outer surface of the pushable projection (121) for guiding the disengaging portion (162) in an unlocking direction (DD) of the lock (133) by sliding contact with the disengaging portion (162).

10. The connector of claim 7, wherein the pushable projection (121) is engageable with the lock (133) to be locked.

11. A jig (160) for detaching a terminal fitting (110) locked by a lock (133) in a cavity (131) of a housing (130), comprising: a disengaging portion (162) insertable substantially along inserting and withdrawing directions (IWD) of the terminal fitting (110) into a jig insertion space (148) between the terminal fitting (110) and the lock (133), the disengaging portion (162) being configured for pressing the lock (133) in a deforming direction (DD) and having a dimension along the deforming direction (DD) of the lock (133) exceeding a dimension of the jig insertion space (148) along the deforming direction (DD), and a difference between said dimension of the disengaging portion (162) and said dimension of the jig insertion space (148) being substantially equal to a displacement of the lock (133) needed to cancel the locked state of the terminal fitting (110), the disengaging portion (162) further being configured for pushing a pushable projection (121) of the terminal fitting (110).

12. A method for detaching a terminal fitting (110) locked by a lock (133) in a cavity (131) of a housing (130), comprising the following steps:

inserting a disengaging portion (162) of a jig (160) into a jig insertion space (148) defined between the terminal fitting (110) and the lock (133);

urging the disengaging portion (162) against the lock (133) for resiliently deforming the lock (133) in an unlocking direction (DD) sufficiently for canceling a locked state of the terminal fitting (110); and

urging the disengaging portion (162) against a pushable projection (121) on the terminal fitting (110) to move the unlocked terminal fitting (110) backward.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein a dimension of the jig insertion space (148) along a resilient deforming direction (DD) of the lock (133) is less than a dimension of a disengaging portion (162) of the jig (160) along the resilient deforming direction (DD), and a difference between said dimension of the disengaging portion (162) and said dimension of the jig insertion space (148) substantially equals a displacement of the lock (133) needed to cancel the locked state of the terminal fitting (110).